

REMARKS

It is noted that the drawings, as filed, were not objected to by the examiner and are therefore considered acceptable.

Also, it is noted that claims 9-20 were allowed and claims 2 and 5 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

The Examiner indicated that independent claims 9 and 16 with their respective dependent claims 10-15 and 17-20 were allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest the recitation therein including a combination belt and buckle with a buckle body forming a recess having a spinning element therein with an indicating portion thereof pointing to indicia on a front surface of the buckle body.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen (5,102,023).

It is Applicant's attorney contention that the reference to Nguyen fails to disclose, suggest or teach Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3, 4 and 6-8, as well as objected to claims 2 and 5, also dependent on independent claim 1. In particular, Nguyen fails to disclose, suggest or teach a belt buckle as specifically set forth in independent claim 1, having a body with a peripheral side edge, a front surface and a rear surface; a recess formed on the front surface; a pin held in the recess in the body; a belt holding loop and a tang secured to the rear surface (of the belt buckle body), indicia on the front surface; a spinning element rotatably mounted in the recess on the pin, and the spinning element including an indicating portion for pointing to the indicia when the spinning element is spun.

The reference to Nguyen discloses a combination watch/waist belt 10 having a belt portion 32 and interchangeable faceplates and watches having an upside down flip-up face spring hinged in its watch housing. The combination belt 10 has a central faceplate 12 with a housing 13 having a watch 21 mounted in the housing and held in the faceplate by release member or tab 26. The watch faceplate 12 has fasteners 43 on each side thereof releasably held in slotted buckle members 45 held at inner ends

on each side thereof releasably held in slotted buckle members 45 held at inner ends of belt 32. Release buttons 14 and 15 on the buckle members 45 allow the faceplate 12 to be removed from the buckle members 45. The belt 32 has distal ends 37, 38, which when the watch/waist belt 10 is worn by a user, are away or removed from the faceplate 12 and include an adjustment means 33 including a conventional belt buckle, such as a hook 34 or pin 34' on distal end 38 adapted for insertion into openings 35 on the belt after passing through a closed loop 36 held to the distal end 37.

The reference to Nguyen fails to disclose, suggest or teach the specific belt buckle body with all the elements set forth in independent claim 1, such as a peripheral side edge on the body, a front surface and a rear surface of the body, a recess formed on the front surface of the body, a pin held in the recess in the body and a belt holding loop and a tang secured to the rear surface of the body. Therefore, independent claim 1 is considered to be allowable over Nguyen.

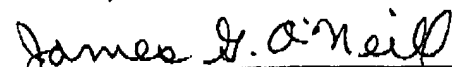
Furthermore, since dependent claims 2-8 add further structural limitations to independent claim 1, these dependent claims are also considered to be allowable over Nguyen.

Since no claims were added by this amendment, no further fee is required.

Since claims 9-20 have been allowed and, in view of the above the remaining claims are considered to be allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow this application and to notify Applicant accordingly.

If the Examiner has any questions with regard to this response he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney by e-mail: joneill@koslaw.com, or at either the facsimile or telephone number set forth below.

Very truly yours,
KLEIN, O'NEILL & SINGH, LLP



James G. O'Neill, Reg. No. 22,858
2 Park Plaza, Suite 510
Irvine, CA 92614
Tel.: 949/955-1920
Fax.: 949/955-1921